

## **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**For immediate release Contact:** Necole Simmonds (804) 726-7105

## Nominate an Outstanding Volunteer or Group for Governor's Award - Deadline to nominate is February 19 -

**Richmond, Va.** (January 8, 2014) – Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. The nomination period begins on Wednesday, January 8 and ends at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19. Honors will be presented in individual and group categories including youth, senior and adult volunteers, faith-based organizations, families that volunteer together, community organizations, small businesses and corporations.

The awards recognize the outstanding efforts of Virginia's volunteers. Nominations are open to small businesses, corporations, community groups, individuals and families that exemplify extraordinary volunteerism and community service.

"Each year, the Commonwealth recognizes those who have demonstrated a commitment to serving their communities. These individuals and organizations are among the 1.76 million Virginians who made a difference in the lives of others by volunteering last year, "said Fran Inge, director of the Virginia Department of Social Services' Office on Volunteerism and Community Service. Virginians on average contributed more than 231.6 million volunteer hours annually, equaling \$5 billion of service to the Commonwealth.

This year's winners will be honored this spring during an awards ceremony in Richmond. For more information or to nominate a person or group, <u>click here</u>, call (804) 726-7918, 1-800-638-3839 or email <u>info@vaservice.org</u>. The deadline for nominations is February 19 by 5:30 p.m.

Nomination forms can be submitted <u>online</u> or <u>downloaded</u> and mailed to the Virginia Department of Social Services, Office on Volunteerism and Community Service, 801 East Main Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Richmond, VA 23219.

###

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) <u>www.dss.virginia.gov</u> is headquartered in Richmond and administers social services programs consistent with Federal and State law and policy of the State Board of Social Services through 120 local departments of social services

(LDSS) and regional state offices throughout the Commonwealth. VDSS' mission is "People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities."